

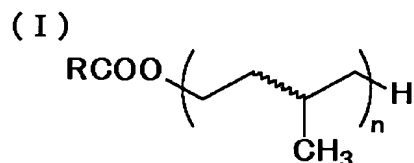
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (New): A method for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group, the wavy line means a single or double bond and n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different.

Claim 23 (New): A method for inhibiting bone absorption comprising administering to a subject in need thereof chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 22.

Claim 24 (New): A method for promoting bone formation comprising administering to a subject in need thereof chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 22.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a linear unsaturated fatty acid.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 26, wherein the linear unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of n-6 type unsaturated fatty acids, n-3 type unsaturated fatty acids and conjugated fatty acids.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-6 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, bis-homo- γ -linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-3 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of α -linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, eicosatetraenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein the conjugated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of conjugated linoleic acid and α -eleostearic acid.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of geraniol, farnesol, geranyl geraniol, phytol and dihydrophytol.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein n is 2 to 4 in the general formula (I).

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein n is 4 in the general formula (I).

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of geranyl-geranyl fatty acid esters, phytol fatty acid esters and dihydrophytol fatty acid esters.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

Claim 37 (New): A method for preventing or treating osteoporosis comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the general formula (I) set out in claim 22.